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## WHAT STARTED WITH ABRAHAM LINCOLN, BARACK OBAMA ENHANCED—

# Blow the whistle on government waste and be rewarded with part of the millions in savings

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### Practice limited to personal injury

- Free consultation
- Home appointments
- No recovery, No fee.  
We do not get paid  
unless you do.

We are sending this special Fourth of July edition of the **Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C.**, newsletter to call to arms all of our clients, their families, and friends to step up and stop government waste. In these difficult economic times, President Obama has made it easier for citizens to come forward and report government waste and be awarded between 15 percent and 30 percent of the money that is recovered as a result of the information provided that saves taxpayer—**and that means you**—money. The Federal False Claims Act was passed in 1863, during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. It was popularly known as “Lincoln’s Law.” The False Claims Act of 1863 was enacted to combat widespread fraud the Union Army suffered at the hands of government contractors during the Civil War. *Congress learned that the same horses were being sold to the Army twice, sand was being substituted for gunpowder, and crates full of sawdust were being shipped to the front lines instead of muskets.* The 1863 Act authorized U.S. District Attorneys or private individuals to file suit on behalf of the United States against people who filed false, fictitious, and/or fraudulent claims with the government.

In 1943, Congress amended the False Claims Act and removed the right of a 50 percent reward to the relator (whistleblower) of the government waste, replacing it with “fair and reasonable compensation.”

The Act in its current form provides that an individual who “blows the whistle” on government waste, the relator, would receive **at least 15 percent, not more than 25 percent, of the proceeds of any action forwarded** to the government, so long as the government deemed the case worthwhile and pursued it. Even if the government chose not to take the case, the attorneys at Chaikin, Sherman, Cammarata & Siegel, P.C., could file it, and, if successful, the relator could receive between 25 percent and 30 percent of the proceeds of the action. In either instance, if the whistleblower won the case, he not only gets his reward, but the costs and attorney’s fees are also paid by the wrongdoer.

Moreover, every whistleblower has been provided protection from discharge, demotion, suspension, harassment, and discrimination in their terms or conditions of employment as a result of their involvement as a whistleblower. The changes in the law worked dramatically. For instance, from **October 1, 2000, to September 30, 2001, whistleblowers received over \$210 million as their share of the proceeds of cases brought to recover damages.** Examples of these cases include a \$15 million payment for overcharging the Department of Veterans Affairs, \$3 million to resolve overbilling allegations at the Justice Department, and over \$9 million for fraudulent Medicare and

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